

eliminate the climate of impunity that has allowed children like Azat and Done to be subjected to such gross abuse at the hands of the police. Then, and only then, will children such as these—"the least of these"—be able to fully partake in the joy of this special Children's Day set aside to celebrate their lives and those of all children in Turkey.

#### PROTECT OUR CHILDREN

### HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, gun related violence is an issue that has, in recent years adversely affected the lives of American children and adults. We have a responsibility, as leaders and parents to address this problem and work towards creating a solution. Children should feel safe in our Nation's urban and rural areas, and in order to create an environment that is a safe one, we must deal with the issue of the misuse and abuse of guns. I feel that this issue may be addressed by requiring manufacturers to fit firearms with a child safety lock. Therefore, I felt that it was necessary to introduce the Child Safety Lock Act of 1999.

This bill will prohibit any person from transferring or selling a firearm, in the United States, unless it is sold with a child safety lock. Further, this legislation would prohibit the transfer or sale of firearms by federally licensed dealers and manufacturers unless a child safety lock is an integral component of the firearm.

A child safety lock is a locking mechanism that attaches to the trigger guard of a firearm. The device fits over the trigger guard and the trigger, preventing the firearm from unintentionally discharging. Once the device is properly applied, it cannot be removed unless it is unlocked.

According to statistics from the Centers for Disease Control, more than 5,000 innocent boys and girls have lost their lives due to unintentional firearm related death. Between 1983 and 1994, 5,523 males between the ages of 1 and 19 were killed by the unintentional discharge of a firearm. The loss of these young lives can be prevented, which is why this legislation is necessary.

To improve the quality of life for children and adults, and avoid the continued senseless bloodshed and loss of life of children around this country, we should work together to pass the Child Safety Lock Act of 1999. It is our obligation to protect our children. This bill does just that, it protects our children and it protects their future.

#### SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION AS INTRODUCED

##### Section 1. Short title

This Act may be cited as the "Child Safety Lock Act of 1999."

##### Section 2. Findings

Presents findings to support the need for this legislation.

#### TITLE 1—CRIMINAL PROVISIONS

##### Section 101. Handgun safety

Defines what a locking device is, provides for locking devices and warnings on hand-

#### EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

guns and penalties related to locking devices and warnings.

#### TITLE 2—REGULATORY PROVISIONS

##### Section 201. Regulation of trigger lock devices

Establishes general authority for the Secretary of the Treasury to prescribe regulations governing trigger lock devices.

##### Section 202. Orders inspections

Allows the Secretary of the Treasury to issue an order and/or inspections regarding a trigger lock device which is in violation of this title.

##### Section 203. Enforcement

Allows the Secretary of the Treasury to assess civil penalties and/or criminal penalties for violation of a provision of this title.

##### Section 204. No effect on State law

This title does not annul, alter, impair, or affect, or exempt any person subject to the provisions of this title from complying with, any provision of the law of any State or any political subdivision thereof, except to the extent that such provisions of State law are inconsistent with any provision of this title, and then only to the extent of the inconsistency.

##### Section 205. Definitions

Defines terms used in this title.

#### TITLE 3—EDUCATION PROVISIONS

##### Section 301. Portion of firearms tax revenue to be used for public education on safe storage of firearms

Uses 2 percent of the firearms tax revenue and uses it for public education on the safe storage and use of firearms.

#### HONORING MR. JOHN P. VASSAK FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

### HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a very special person. This morning I have the pleasure of meeting the North Salem Middle School's 8th Grade Class on the steps of the U.S. House of Representatives.

This is not the first time I have met with the fine young men and women of the middle school. What makes this visit so extraordinary is that this year marks the 25th time Mr. John P. Vassak—a dedicated social studies teacher—has personally escorted his classes to our nation's capitol.

By investing his time year after year to bring his students to Washington, DC he excites their minds and instills in them a greater understanding for how our government works. He is able to show them the Capitol, the Supreme Court and the White House while he teaches the importance of the checks and balances in the three branches of our government. He is also able to point out the various monuments to our heroes who have served to protect the freedom we all enjoy.

Through his generosity of time and talents, Mr. Vassak has exemplified the pride for our nation and instills in these children the respect for our democracy it so deserves. These children will understand the foundation of our government and their rights and responsibilities in our democracy. Because of Mr. Vassak's dedication, they will forever be better citizens. Congratulations to you, Mr. Vassak.

April 21, 1999

CONGRATULATING THE BOWIE  
BLADE-NEWS ON WINNING NEWS-  
PAPER OF THE YEAR

### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 21, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Maryland's most informative and well respected newspapers, "The Bowie Blade-News." The Blade-News was recently named Newspaper of the Year for its division, by the Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association. In addition, Editor John Rouse and five other members of the editorial staff were recognized for their work in various categories for a total of 14 awards.

Blade-News photographer Sharon Tazelaar received a first-place award for the division in the category of Spot News Photo, beating out photojournalists from daily newspapers such as the Washington Post and the Baltimore Sun. Other Blade-News staff receiving awards were Sports Editor Christine Krapf, and staff writers Cheryl Allison, David Emanuel and Donna Reifsnider.

Having been involved in public service in Maryland for much of my life, I have had the distinct honor of working with John Rouse and his staff of reporters and photographers. Rouse, who has held the title of Editor at the Blade-News for 27 years has worked hard to ensure that the Bowie Blade-News upholds the Capital-Gazette Newspapers philosophy which is, "Every issue of every newspaper represents a battle for excellence." Under Rouse's leadership, the Bowie Blade-News has become a vital source of information for the community.

Mr. Speaker, the Capital-Gazette Newspapers, which owns and publishes the Bowie Blade-News, has a long and rich history of informing the people of Maryland and is one of the oldest newspaper publishers in the country. The company's original newspaper, the Maryland Gazette, was first published in 1727 and many of the reports published in the Gazette were copied by Benjamin Franklin and other Colonial editors for their own newspapers. This newspaper also has the distinction of having had the first woman editor and publisher of a newspaper in the American Colonies.

The Maryland Gazette also survived strong local sympathies for the Confederacy, all the while sharply criticizing the movement to dissolve the Union. In fact, the newspaper was saved by President Abraham Lincoln when he appointed the publisher as the federal paymaster for the state of Maryland, helping the publisher to subsidize his newspaper.

Under the guidance of John Rouse, the Bowie Blade-News is upholding this tradition of seeking out the truth and providing the information to the surrounding community. It plays a vital role in the daily lives of the people who rely on it for news and information about their neighborhoods. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have such an honorable news organization in my Congressional District and I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Bowie Blade-News on being named the 1998 Newspaper of the Year by the Maryland-Delaware-District of Columbia Press Association.